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New Director for RAC/CP

Mr Armand Vilaplana i Masnou is the new Director of the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (RAC/CP) since 1 March, when he occupied the post. His appointment to the position, that stems from a new political stage of the government of Catalonia, was supported by the Spanish Ministry of Environment and the MAP Coordinating Unit.



Mr Armand Vilaplana i Masnou

This new period that is starting for the environmental policies promoted from Catalonia aims to carry out a strategy of dialogue with the different agents involved in the environment in order to put into practice the theory of sustainability while integrating the three pillars it is based on: economy, environment and society.

In the Mediterranean sphere, this new appointment arrives during a restructuring process of the RAC/CP that will be the tool for The Mediterranean Action Plan to integrate environmental issues and corporate advances, particularly related to the major challenges arising from the application of the Strategic Action Programme in the framework of the LBS Protocol and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

Mr Armand Vilaplana i Masnou, an electronics engineer, is the founder of the corporate economy in Catalonia, and has 25 years experience in corporate management, specifically in the field labour companies. It is to be noted that Mr Armand Vilaplana i Masnou is the founder and president of the Federation of Joint Stock Labour Companies in Catalonia (FESALC) since 1983.

Turkey: initial steps for setting up a CP Centre in the country

A number of Turkish industries have already started implementing cleaner production options and to a certain extent, have included the life cycle assessment (LCA) approach. With the Turkish industry's need for continual progress in international marketing, the process of integrating into the European Union, public awareness and company image issues, product-oriented environmental initiatives following the concept "from the cradle to the grave" will have to increase the presence within Turkish industry. From this point of view, establishing a National Cleaner Production Centre in the near future has become of vital importance.

With that aim in mind, Turkey has launched a project to assess the eventual setting up of a Cleaner Production Centre in this country. The project, entitled **Integration of Eco-efficiency into Production Industry**, is being carried out by the Cleaner Production Unit of the Institute of Environmental Sciences, at the Bogazici University (Istanbul, Turkey). The Institute of Environmental Sciences offers consulting services related to environmental issues that the industry is facing, apart from performing ordinary academic teaching and research activities.



**Campus of the Bogazici University, Institute of Environmental Sciences,
the institution carrying out the project for establishing a CP Centre in Turkey**

The project is sponsored by a platform of Turkish NGOs, namely SURGECEB. SURGECEB includes the Turkish Industrialists' and Businessmen's Association (TUSIAD), Istanbul Chamber of Industry (ISO), an NGO of industrialists for solid waste disposal (CEVKO), and an NGO of industrialists for glass recycling (CAMSAD).

The goal of this project is to organise the CP Centre framework that will lead to sustainable environmental development issues in Turkey. Within this framework, the structure of the proposed CP Centre will be evaluated considering the legal, administrative, financial and organisational aspects. As part of the aforementioned project, the Med Clean case studies produced by the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (RAC/CP) will be translated into Turkish and included in the project. The Med Clean case studies show success stories of Mediterranean companies from a variety of industrial sectors having introduced pollution prevention measures, along with the related environmental and economical benefits obtained.



**Med Clean file number 54
Reduction of energy losses in transportation pipes, food industry (Croatia)**

The outcome of the project will once again show the advantages of eco-efficiency. Furthermore, it will attempt to direct industrialists to include pollution prevention strategies in their company policies. The well-defined scope of the proposed CP Centre, together with its detailed organisational structure, will doubtless draw the attention and interest of related entities to carry out an action plan aimed at establishing a CP Centre in Turkey in the short term.

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Latest steps in the preparation of the National Action Plans for the application of the Strategic Action Plans

And it is now that the Mediterranean countries have to prepare their National Action Plans (NAPs) in order that they may be operative in 2005. The preparation of the NAPs was preceded by the National Diagnostic Analyses (NDA) and the baseline budgets, that most of the countries have already completed.

To further this task, a Course for the preparation of National Action Plans for the application of the Strategic Action Programme" was organized in Izmit (Turkey) on 4, 5 and 6 March in the framework of The Mediterranean Action Plan with the participation of national experts appointed for the preparation of the action plans.

This course served to go over the phases in the preparation of the NAPs, from the first step for identifying and assessing the nature and severity of the problems through the NDA and the baseline budget, to the formulation of a list of medium-term priority actions, along with regional plans and the sectorial plans that will be part of the NAPs.



Group photo with national experts and representatives from the various bodies of The Mediterranean Action Plan

It was also intended as a first meeting for the national experts to exchange opinions. Several working groups were formed to emulate the preparation of a NAP in a fictitious country.

In this role game between the experts, a series of conditions required to successfully prepare the action plans were reviewed. These were the **identification and participation of the stakeholders** from the initial stages, the preparation of a **financial strategy** for the long-term sustainability of action plans and the use of **cleaner production** aspects.

Regarding this first aspect, the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (RAC/CP), aside from participating in the work groups for the preparation of the NAP in a fictitious country, had previously presented the cleaner production philosophy to the national experts and how to introduce it in the National Action Plans.

Lastly, special attention was given to the preparation of the **investment portfolio** for the application of the NAP that must combine the environmental priorities assessed in the diagnostic analysis and the investment commitments, through the appraisal of items such as cost, profit, contribution to development, feasibility and financial sustainability.

The experiences exchanged between the experts allowed to gauge the importance of holding a dialogue from the start with all the parties involved, particularly with the industry, as it is the latter that will ultimately have to apply pollution reduction measures. In this sense, the public administrations are not only required to enforce the laws but also to foster prevention policies within the industrial sectors and the use of more environmentally efficient technologies.

SYRENIRO 2004



The Syrian International Environment Exhibition "SYRENIRO 2004" was held on 5 - 8 April 2004 at the New Damascus International Fairground. This first-ever specialised environmental event in Syria was patronised by H.E. the Syrian Prime Minister with the support of: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Syrian Ministry of Local Administration and the Syrian Environment Association.



View of the exhibit

60 Exhibitors representing 10 countries were present at SYRENIRO 2004, of which five were from the Mediterranean basin: Syria, France, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, Ukraine, Germany, Austria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. The exhibitors included:

- national and international companies that are active in various environmental-related fields (e.g. Envirotech, Syrian Agricultural Services Company-SASCO, CQT consultancy, Chemonics, VIMPEX);
- leading international organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation GTZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit);
- Governmental bodies, including several municipalities (among others, Damascus, Der Ez Zor).

- Homs and Tartous);
- NGOs (e.g. the Syrian Environment Association).



Participants at a seminar

Cleaner technologies were represented at SYRENVIRO 2004 along with other sectors of activity: namely, environmental management systems, environmental auditing, environmental training, energy, noise and vibrations, occupational hygiene and risk management, environmental software, publications and journals, as well as environmental monitoring. Furthermore, end-of-pipe options such as waste, wastewater treatment, air and gas purification, and water treatment were also present at the exhibition.

During the exhibition, six parallel seminar sessions were held to tackle challenging aspects of the environment in the Middle East such as Sustainable development in the Middle East, natural resources, wastewater reuse and solid waste. Speakers included experts from leading organisations (such as Ms Stephanie Hodge from UNDP New York, Dr Kourdab and Dr Hazouri from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia-ESCWA) as well as national officials and consultants.

During the four days of this event, over 8,650 visitors visited SYRENVIRO 2004. SYRENVIRO is a bi-annual event, the next edition being foreseen for April 2006.

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Waste separation: What's the big deal?

The Cleaner Technology Centre and WasteServ Malta Ltd. organised an informative half-day seminar at Project House, Floriana (Malta) on the 3rd of March. The Cleaner Technology Centre is the institution that hosts the RAC/CP National Focal Point for Malta, whilst WasteServ Malta Ltd., is the company that deals with integrated systems for waste management along with the major waste management facilities and services in the Maltese Islands. Attendance to the seminar, which tackled the different aspects of waste separation at source, was free of charge.



Delegates participating in the seminar

Separation is an important component in the implementation process of any waste management strategy and a lot of hype is being made regarding this issue. In this seminar practical advice was given on the different aspects in the area, including obligations and responsibilities, waste minimisation and how to proceed with a waste management plan.



Panel of Experts
 In the middle, Mr Anton Pizzuto (RAC/CP National Focal Point for Malta)
 addressing the attendants to the seminar

Presentations were delivered by officials from WasteServ Malta and the Ministry for Rural Affairs and the Environment. Furthermore, a case study was also presented by a local industry in the electronics sector, practising waste separation. All the presentations were tackled from a practical and local point of view, and emphasis was placed on the introduction of cleaner production in an effort to illustrate waste minimisation.

You can access the seminar programme by clicking here. 

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Study on the State of cleaner production in The Mediterranean Action Plan countries - Second edition

The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (RAC/CP) has recently published the second edition of the *State of cleaner production in The Mediterranean Action Plan countries*. This new edition updates and enhances the study the Centre published in 2001, analysing the main advances registered in Mediterranean countries with regard to the implementation of the regulation, programmes and action plans for pollution prevention and fostering of cleaner production.

The study also points out the main bodies and agents included in the institutional framework for promoting cleaner production in each country, while providing information on activities and tools that the countries have developed to boost the implementation of cleaner production in the industrial sectors operating in each country.

For this second edition, the RAC/CP received technical support from three Mediterranean experts on cleaner production as well as collaboration from its National Focal Points. The experts examined the different countries in the region divided into three sub-categories: South, North and East.



Regional Activity Centre
For Cleaner Production



Ministry of the Environment
Spain



Government of Catalonia
Ministry of the Environment